



NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE

- ❖ Religious life as a reality which affects the whole Church . . . a decisive element for its mission
 - Church as the life and work of Jesus Christ extended in time and space
 - Our life is profoundly ecclesial; it enriches the Church in unique ways
- ❖ Charismatic and prophetic dimensions of the gift
 - Distinction between charism and prophecy
 - Prophecy as a transparency to the divine
 - Prophetic core located in the living of the vows
- ❖ Communitarian dimension of the gift—Eucharist and community life
 - The Word is made flesh
 - Do this in memory of me
 - That all may be one
 - Go forth in mission

❖ Ministry dimension of the gift

- Articulating the Gospel-oriented value of the work
- Sent forth by one's congregation
- Encouragement and development of the laity

❖ The gift of change

- Change as a sign of vitality
- The role of women religious in ecclesial change
- Intended and unintended consequences of change
- Creating future change—do's and don't's

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Reflection Questions:

1. How would you, or your members, describe what ecclesial identity means to you?
2. What changes in the practice of the vows, ministry, or community life have you participated in?
Can you identify positive and negative outcomes?
Or areas where the outcome is still uncertain?
3. What are some possible action-oriented initiatives for your congregation?
What would be a strategy for introducing them?